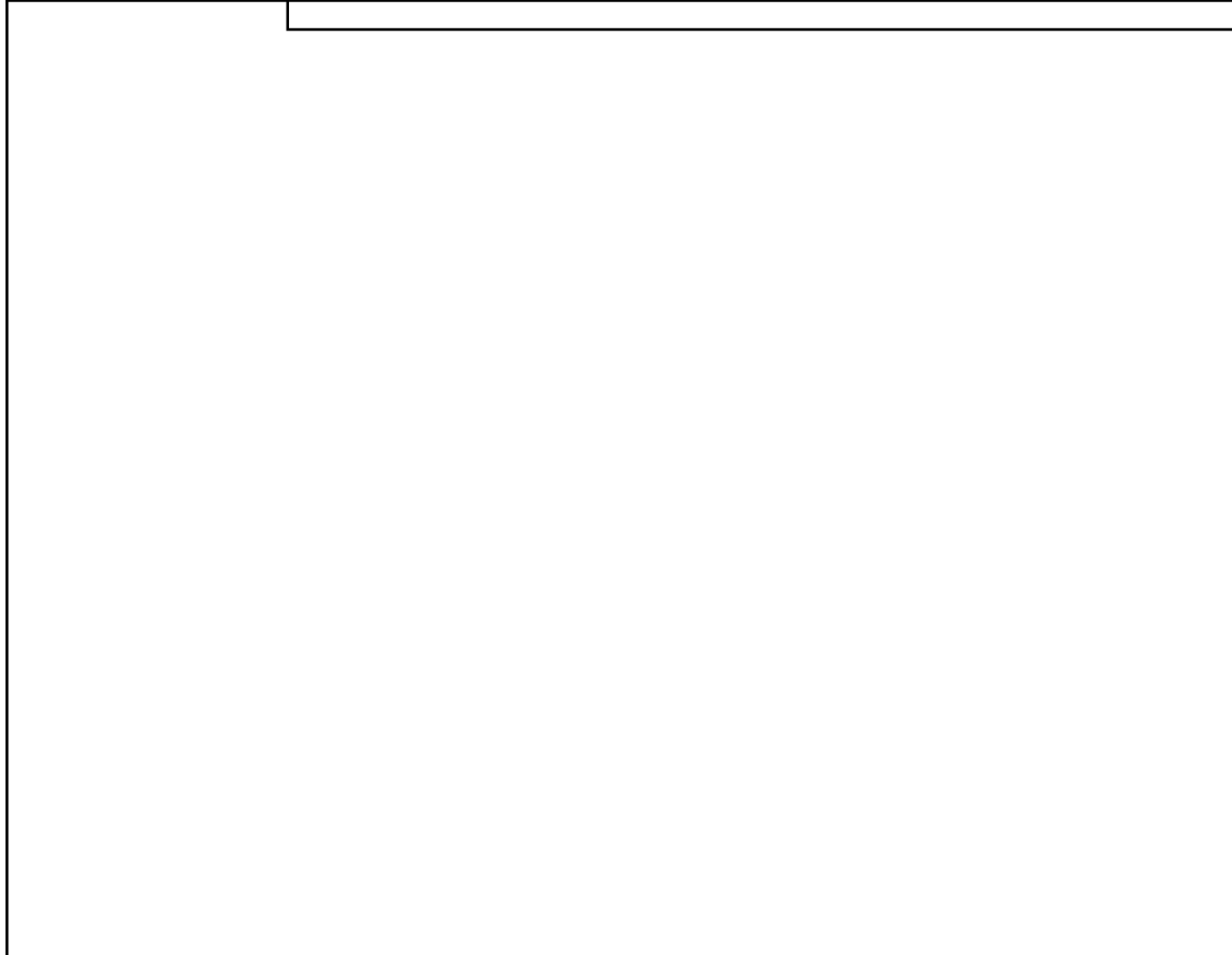


WSC BRIEFING



II. Chinese Communists, Nationalists, and Russians all apparently waiting further developments in Chinmen blockade situation.

A. Supply deliveries improved during last week, but average daily total still below minimum requirements of garrison. (Daily average last week 175 tons, previously was 100 tons; minimum requirement 309 tons daily.) Taiwan Defense Command confident, however, minimum totals can soon be supplied.

State Dept. review completed

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1. Bad weather, which will continue through winter, forced cancellations convoys three days last week.
2. As of 30 September food stocks on Chinmens totaled 36 days and ammunition stocks 29 days.

III. Chicom have made no new moves to tighten blockade. However, as supply picture brightens and Nationalist air force continues its excellent performance, Chicom may come to believe their negotiating position has been weakened and decide to up military stakes. Among measures open to them are:

A. Intensification of artillery interdiction.

B. Mining of sea approaches. We have no evidence that Chicom considering this course, but we think it is a possibility.

C. Air attacks against sea and air supply lines.

1. So far, Communist aircraft have made no attacks on convoys, and are normally not ordered into Chinmen area by their ground controllers.

2. So far, one Nationalist transport plane has been lost to antiaircraft fire.

D. Communists could also increase pressure by more direct action such as seizure of Tatan and Ehrtan.

1. Nationalists report that Communists using delayed action fuses in artillery fire on Tatan and Ehrtan. This kind of fire is gradually destroying defensive positions.
- E. Communists could begin operations against hitherto unmolested Matsus--interdiction or attack.

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F. Finally, Chicom could make major amphibious assault on Chin-men itself, but this seems unlikely at present.

IV. Before making any direct attacks, however, we think Chicom would want to improve performance of their air force.

A. We noted last week that there is evidence of high-performance aircraft operating in Strait area (possibly MIG-19--FARMER) but no such aircraft have been used in combat.

B. Chicom might also want to use better pilots.

1. US embassy in Moscow cites first indications in Soviet press that Soviet pilots being prepared psychologically for "volunteer" service in Far East.

- and a direct attack by
Svetlov at Chicom celebration
in Moscow yesterday. Chicom
did not attend.*
- C. Chinat use of Sidewinder missile has provoked a strong propaganda reaction from Peiping, and may result in Chicom use of similar Soviet-made weapons.
1. Peiping calls Chinat use "criminal action" and promises "punitive blows" against Chinat air force.

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- V. Chinese Communists also continue their numbered warnings against US armed "provocations" (19th was issued on 1 October). Make no threat of counter-action, but we suspect Chicom may be considering one or more of the courses listed above with the object of:
- A. Increasing pressure on US in Warsaw talks and/or,
 - B. Provoking unilateral Chinat action which would give the Communist bloc a case to take to the UN.

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